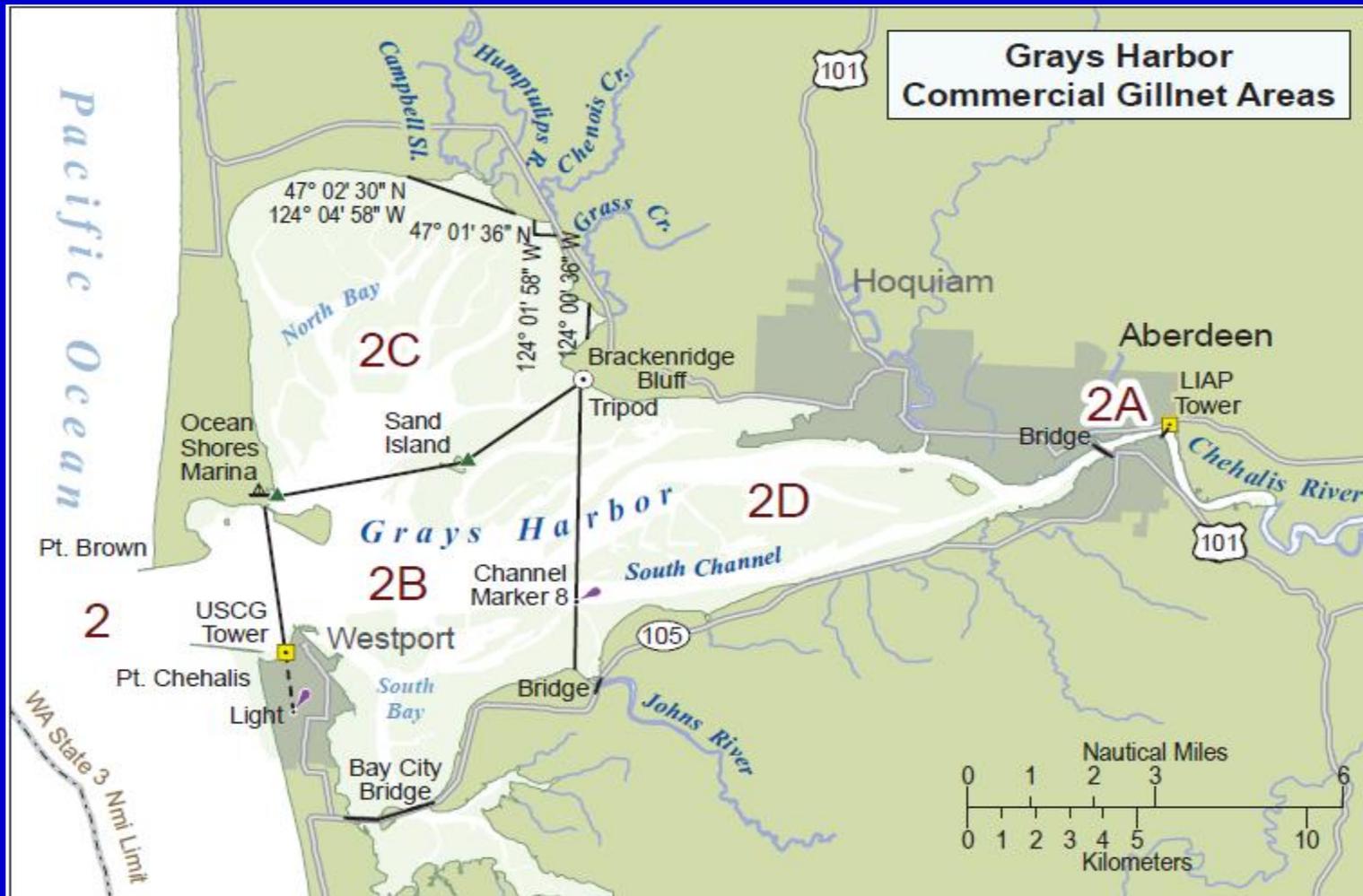


# Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy 2015 Season Review



Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
February 27, 2016

# Purpose

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- **Brief Commission on implementation of Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy**

# Presentation Outline

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- **Review of key Policy elements**
- **Review 2015 Planning**
- **Report on 2015 Actual**
- **Public feedback**
- **2016 Implementation**

# Key Policy Elements

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- **Enhance Conservation Focus**
- **Reduce Gear Conflict**
- **Clarify Sharing of Impacts**

# Enhance Conservation Focus

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- **Advance conservation and restoration of wild salmon.**
- **Limit the impacts of WDFW-managed fisheries to a maximum of 5% of the adult return if:**
  - **natural origin returns are less than 10% over goal**
  - **spawning goals for natural origin salmon are not met in three out of the previous five years, commonly referred to as the “Penalty Box”**

# Reduce Gear Conflict

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- **Structure seasons, when possible, so that sport anglers have at least three consecutive days of fishing per week with no commercial fisheries in progress. This is known as the 4/3 principle, principle #8**

# Clarify Sharing of Impacts

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**Fishery management objectives, in priority order, are:**

- 1) Achieve spawner goals.**
- 2) Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities for Chinook.**
- 3) Limit commercial fishery impacts to the incidental harvest of fall Chinook during fisheries directed at other species.**

# Clarify Sharing of Impacts

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**Maintain WDFW-managed commercial fisheries for Coho and Chum salmon, but limit incidental Chinook impacts:**

- **5.4% - Humptulips fall Chinook Area 2C**
- **0.8% - Chehalis fall Chinook Area 2A/B/D**
- **Rates may increase at high run size.**

# Review of 2015 Planning

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- **Constraining stocks**
  - **Humptulips River natural-origin Coho Below spawner goal – 5% limit**
  - **Chehalis River natural-origin Chinook in “Penalty Box” – 5% limit**
  - **Commercial fisheries in 2A-D limited to 0.8% impact on Chehalis Chinook**
- **All other Grays Harbor salmon stocks were forecasted at more than 10% over goal**
- **Crafted fisheries to comply with key policy elements**

# Review of 2015 Planning

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- **Recreational sharing objectives between freshwater and marine are difficult to achieve when meeting conservation criteria**
- **Treaty fisheries again utilized most of the projected savings from application of the “penalty box” on Chehalis natural-origin Chinook**
- **4/3 principle difficult**
  - **Tribal schedule not set until June or July**
  - **Adjustments to NT schedule can cause conservation issues**
  - **Lack of certainty for commercial fishers**

# 2015 Actual Performance

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- **Sport catch and impact estimates are preliminary**
- **Strong Chinook fishery in Humptulips**
- **Achieved conservation objectives for Chinook and Chum**
- **Returns of Coho well below forecast**
- **All WDFW managed fisheries reduced in response to small Coho returns**
- **Not expected to be met conservation objectives for natural-origin Coho stocks**

# 2015 Preliminary Chinook Performance

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## Spring Chinook

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Actual*
Run-Size		3,574	2,132
Spawners	1,400		1,841

\* Preliminary data subject to change

# 2015 Preliminary Chinook Performance

## Chehalis Natural-Origin Fall

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Actual*
Run-Size		19,108	23,100
Spawners	9,880	9,947	14,000
NT Commercial HR	0.8%	0.77%	0.44%
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	4.44%	3.88%

## Humptulips Natural-Origin Fall

Run-Size		7,403	7,700
Spawners	3,620	4,024	4,800
NT Commercial HR	5.4%	0.68%	0.00%
WDFW-Managed Fisheries		21.39%	20.57%

\* Preliminary data subject to change

# 2015 Preliminary Coho Performance

## Chehalis Natural-Origin Coho

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Actual*
Run-Size		121,734	31,800
Spawners	28,506	66,652	20,000
NT Commercial HR		3.8%	2.92%
WDFW-Managed Fisheries		15.44%	11.11%

## Humptulips Natural-Origin Coho

Run-Size		5,861	1,112
Spawners	6,894	3,720	820
NT Commercial HR		0.54%	0.00%
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	1.81%	1.32%

\* Preliminary data subject to change

# 2015 Preliminary Chum Performance

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## Grays Harbor Chum

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Actual*
Run-Size		28,852	47,000
Spawners	21,000	21,029	33,705
NT Commercial HR		10.13%	9.63%
WDFW-Managed Fisheries		12.55%	10.46%

\* Preliminary data subject to change

# 2015 Actual Performance

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## WDFW-Managed Commercial Catch

Species	Pre-season	Actual
Chinook	99	62
Coho	5,737	1,507
Chum	2,924	4,644

# Other Policy Components

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- **Chum escapement methodology**
  - **Implemented project to evaluate method**
  - **Project shared with QIN and Chehalis Tribe**
- **Wynoochee Mitigation Plan**
  - **Worked with constituents to develop a draft plan**
  - **Plan submitted to QIN in October for review**

# Public Feedback

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- **Continues to limit commercial fisheries**
- **4/3 – Variety of Perspectives**
- **Need conservation actions on pre-terminal fisheries to protect terminal fisheries**
- **In-river anglers took the brunt of the conservation burden in 2015**
- **Continuing issues with public trust**
- **Wynoochee Mitigation Plan – continued frustration on lack of implementation**

# Summary

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- **Conservation objective achieved for Chinook and Chum**
- **All WDFW hatchery production goals were achieved**
- **Does not appear conservation objectives will be achieved for natural-origin Coho**
- **Developed and utilized in-season update tools to address issues**
- **Initiated evaluation of the Chum escapement methodology**
- **Staff is not recommending any changes at this time**

# 2016 Implementation

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- **2016 may be another difficult season**
- **Constraining Stocks**
  - **Chehalis River natural-origin Chinook in “Penalty Box”**
  - **Humptulips River natural-origin Coho below goal**
  - **Chehalis natural-origin Coho may not be above goal**
- **Continue work on Chum escapement methodology**
- **Refine tools for in-season updates**
- **Push for the completion of the Wynoochee Mitigation Plan**

**Question?**